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Precedence: R

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From: DOD, ARMY, ORGANIZATIONS, AHRC, HRC AG(UC), HRC MILITARY AWARDS

BR(UC)

Subject: Delegation of Wartime Approval Authority to Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A)

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A. AR 600-8-22, Military Awards, 11 Dec 06.

B. DoD 1348.33-M, Manual of Military Decorations and Awards, Sep 96.

C. DMS Message, dated 15 Feb 07, Subj: Changes to the Army Wartime Awards Concurrence Procedures.

D. DMS Message, dated 8 Jun 05, Subj: Purple Heart (PH) Revocation Authority.

E. HQDA LTR 600-05-3, dated 21 Oct 05, Subj: Global War on Terrorism Unit Recognition Certificates.

F. DMS Message, dated 21 Jul 06, Subj: Approval Process for Posthumous Valor Award Recommendations.

G. HQDA Message, dated 9 Feb 06, Subj: Campaign Participation Credit for the GWOT Conflict.

1. The purpose of this message is to announce that the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower & Reserve Affairs) has delegated to the U.S. Army Major General (MG) commanding, or the U.S. Army Brigadier General (BG) serving in the MG commander position of CSTC-A, authority to award the Bronze Star Medal (BSM) and all lesser decorations, the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB), Combat Medical Badge (CMB), Combat Action Badge (CAB), and Purple Heart (PH), to military personnel assigned, attached or under the operational control of CSTC-A; with further delegation to subordinate U.S. Army commanders as follows.

a. Army Awards to Foreign Military Personnel. The authority to award Army decorations to members of the Armed Forces of friendly foreign nations is authorized for award to Colonel (COL) or equivalent, and below only, after appropriate clearances are received from respective U.S. embassies and the provisions of references A and B are

met. This authority will not be further delegated. All other recommendations will be forwarded with appropriate concurrences, to USA HRC for processing.

b. Army Commendation Medal and Army Achievement Medal. The CG, CSTC-A may delegate to Army commanders in the ranks of COL and above the authority to award the Army Commendation Medal and Army Achievement Medal to U.S. military personnel under their command.

c. Disapproval Authority. The CG, CSTC-A may delegate disapproval authority for U.S. Army decorations to Army commanders, provided those subordinate commanders have approval authority for the next lower award. The CG, CSTC-A may also delegate disapproval authority for the combat badges to Army commanders in the ranks of COL and above.

d. Purple Hearts. The CG, CSTC-A may delegate to Army commanders in the ranks of BG and above authority to award the PH to eligible Soldiers under their command that are wounded as the direct result of enemy action. The PH may also be awarded to Soldiers wounded or killed in action by friendly fire. In accordance with Section 1131, Title 10, USC, the PH may only be awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States. The PH is no longer authorized for award to U.S. civilians. Requests for award of the PH that cannot be determined will be forwarded through CSTC-A to USA HRC, ATTN: AHRC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall St, Alexandria, VA 22332, for decision. Additionally, those commanders delegated PH approval authority are no longer authorized to revoke approved PH's. As outlined in reference D, all requests for revocation of an approved PH must be forwarded through CSTC-A to USA HRC (AHRC-PDO-PA) for processing.

e. Combat Badges. The CG, CSTC-A may delegate to Army commanders in the ranks of BG and above authority to award the CIB, CMB and CAB. The CIB may be awarded only to Infantry and Special Forces officers and enlisted Soldiers who satisfactorily perform Infantry or Special Forces duties in active ground combat. The CMB may be awarded to medical personnel (not to include Special Forces medics and members assigned or attached to Aviation units) who satisfactorily perform medical duties while the ground combat unit is engaged in active ground combat, provided they are personally present and under fire. The CAB may be awarded to any Soldier (not to include Soldiers assigned/attached to a unit that would qualify the Soldier for the CIB/CMB) that is actively engaging or being engaged by the enemy. When contemplating eligibility for the CAB, approval authorities must take in consideration the proximity of the Soldier to the impacted area and whether the Soldier could have been reasonably injured by the blast, detonation or explosion. Battle or campaign participation credit alone will not be the basis for award of the CIB, CMB nor the CAB. Award of the CIB, CMB and CAB for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) fall under the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) conflict. As prescribed in reference A, subsequent awards of the CIB, CMB, and CAB are not authorized for the same qualifying conflict. Therefore, subsequent awards of the CIB,

CMB, and CAB are not authorized for participation in OEF and/or OIF. For example, a Soldier who earned the CIB for OEF will not be awarded a second CIB for OIF.

2. Recommendations for award of the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldier's Medal, and all unit award recommendations will be forwarded through CSTC-A to USA HRC (AHRC-PDO-PA) for further processing.

3. Posthumous Awards. To ensure timely presentation to the next-of-kins at the funerals, all recommendations for wartime decorations (eg, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal) will be submitted on a DA Form 638 and forwarded through the C1, CSTC-A to USA HRC (AHRC-PDO-PA) for processing. The USA HRC will automatically award posthumous PHs for eligible Soldiers. Additionally, as outlined in reference F, the completed AR 15-6 collateral investigation must be submitted with all posthumous valor award recommendations.

4. Reference C outlines procedures for awarding wartime decorations to members of the other U.S. Armed Forces.

5. To preserve the integrity of the Army awards program and to ensure meaningful recognition for truly deserving Soldiers, special care should be exercised so that military decorations for meritorious and valorous achievement or service are only approved for those service members who truly distinguish themselves among their comrades by exceptional performance in combat or in support of combat operations.

6. Awards presented in recognition of service for valor and achievement must be accurately recorded to ensure data is captured for historical and policy evaluation purposes. The number of decorations awarded will be included in a monthly report indicating awards presented by category (valor, service, or achievement), and by component (Active, Reserve, and National Guard). A by-name alphabetical listing of all valor awards should be incorporated. Reports must be forwarded to the Military Awards Branch (awards@conus.army.mil) in a timely manner. A report is required to be submitted monthly NLT the 15th of the following month.

7. The authority to award wartime awards will be reviewed regularly as the tactical situation dictates and automatically terminates 180 days after completion of combat operations. At that time, the CG, CSTC-A will have 90 days to complete any pending award recommendations. All awards not processed within the 90 day completion period, will be forwarded directly to USA HRC (AHRC-PDO-PA) for processing.

8. Requests for campaign participation credit and campaign streamers for U.S. Army units currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of OEF will be forwarded through the wartime chain of command to the CSTC-A. The CSTC-A will consolidate input, confirm participation of units, and endorse and email the documentation of those units that have met the criteria to USA HRC (ATTN: AHRC-PDO-PA). The request must include unit deployment orders and/or evidence that 65 percent or more of the unit MTOE strength

served in Afghanistan in support of OEF. In the absence of unit deployment orders, or evidence of 65 percent MTOE strength participation, campaign participation credit will not be granted. The CG, CSTC-A may recognize those units not eligible for campaign participation credit with a GWOT Unit Recognition Certificate (see reference E).

9. Requests for campaign participation credit and campaign streamers for Army units that have redeployed prior to the date of this message will be submitted through the peacetime chain of command as outlined in reference G.

10. Requests for Assault Landing Credit, Combat Infantry Streamers and Combat Medical Streamers must be processed in accordance with reference A.

11. There are three campaign medals authorized for the GWOT conflict (Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal and Iraq Campaign Medal). The criteria for these medals can be found in reference A. Service stars are not authorized at this time.

12. For clarification of guidance provided, contact the Military Awards Branch at awards@conus.army.mil or visit the website at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/TAGD/awards/index.htm>.